

**A History of the Birds of Colorado.**

TO THE EDITOR OF 'THE AUK':—

*Dear Sir:*—Mr. Selater's splendid work, *A History of the Birds of Colorado*, eagerly expected for some time, is now at hand, and certainly fulfils all expectations. It is well-printed with good type on un-glazed paper, hence easily readable and the arrangement is all that could be desired. In going through the pages it seems to me that the references are as nearly complete as could be expected, but in such a work some omissions are almost inevitable. The most noticeable one which attracts my attention is Felger's "Birds and Mammals of Northwestern Colorado," which is listed in the bibliography, but all or nearly all of his records therein are omitted from the text, including a few rather important ones. This is not offered by way of criticism, but merely to call the attention of ornithologists to the fact that there are uncited records of some of the species. With such an excellent list as a foundation, this would be a good time for all who have worked in this region to go through the book in a search for the rarer species or species of limited distribution in the state, and publish in 'The Auk' or *Condor* any really important records they may have which would add essentially to our knowledge of the distribution of the less known species. Of course all ornithologists will not agree with all that the author of this work says, but in most cases when he departs from the beaten path he is perfectly fair with the reader. He does not directly admit the validity of the Red-wing subspecies *Agelaius phœniceus fortis*, except by including it in the key to the genus, but he fairly states the situation. Felger's record of *A. p. neutralis* for Rifle Gap, Meeker, Buford, etc., based upon Oberholser's identification, may be noted here. The omission of the eastern form of Robin will doubtless be a surprise to many.

Among Felger's published records for northwestern Colorado which might have been added to the list with advantage are the following: Snowy Egret in White River Valley; Sandhill Crane nesting at Buford, etc.; Virginia Rail at Meeker (Selater says he has "not heard of it on the western slopes"); Sora at Meeker; Western Solitary Sandpiper, three August records for White River Valley; Upland Plover, Marvine Lodge, August 28; Short-eared Owl at Axial in August (Selater considers it almost altogether a winter bird in Colorado); Road Runner near Meeker, credited to Mr. Ball (Selater gives Denver as the northernmost record); White-throated Swift nesting near Axial; Bobolink, young birds near Meeker in August, indicating a nesting record; Purple Martin in Lost Park, September 1; Canyon Wren at Axial, one of the most northerly records of the species.

Bragg's summer record of the Gray-headed Junco at Boulder, altitude 5,700 feet, July 4, 1904, should be added to the list, as it indicates a probable breeding record much below the usual elevation. The Snowy Egret being rare, it may be well to add the record of two taken near Boulder in

1908, one of which is in the University cabinet.<sup>1</sup> The same collection includes a Black-throated Blue Warbler, taken in Boulder Canyon, at 6,000 feet, Oct. 16, 1911.

The bringing together of these records, even with Cooke's bulletins as a basis, and the preparation of new descriptions and keys, has been a great undertaking, but the work has been well done and deserves the appreciation of ornithologists, both professional and amateur.

JUNIUS HENDERSON.

University of Colorado.

### Life of Sir William Jardine.

THE EDITOR OF 'THE AUK,'

*Dear Sir:*—For some time past I have been engaged in writing the "Life of Sir William Jardine," the naturalist.

I wonder if you would be so good as to insert this letter in your magazine, in the hope that, if it caught the eye of any one who might be able to assist me, either by letters from Sir William Jardine, or from personal acquaintance, they might communicate with me.

Yours truly,

HUGH S. GLADSTONE.

Capenoch, Thornhill,  
Dumfriesshire, England.

March 12, 1912.

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<sup>1</sup> Colorado College, an excellent denominational institution at Colorado Springs is frequently confused with the University of Colorado, a state institution located at Boulder. References to the collections and records of both institutions occur in Mr. Sclater's book.—J. H.